

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:	)	
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Frank-Martin Willie et al	)	
	)	
Application No.: 10/593,458	)	Confirmation No.: 9971
	)	
Filed: September 19, 2006	)	Art Unit: 3663
	)	
For: Communication System for a Motor Vehicle	)	Examiner: Jonathan M. Dager
	)	

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This is a request for reconsideration of the restriction requirement made in the Office action mailed June 10, 2009.

Applicants provisionally elect Group I and species F with traverse. As specified in the Office action, in Group 1, the inputted information relates to a condition of the air conditioning. Group I includes claims 1 – 42, drawn to a communications system, a control module, and a motor vehicle. As specified in the Office action, in species F, the outputted information includes the interior temperature. Species F includes claims 1 – 42.

The requirement for restriction is respectfully traversed.

This application is a National Stage Entry of PCT/EP05/02573. Under PCT Rule 13, the appropriate legal standard regarding restriction is whether “[t]he international application ... relate[s] to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept.”<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, “[w]here a group of inventions is claimed in one and the same international application, the requirement of unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding

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<sup>1</sup> PCT RULE 13.1.

special technical features. The expression “special technical features” shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.”<sup>2</sup> It is respectfully submitted that the present invention properly relates to a single general inventive concept.

All of the claims involve the following technical features: transmission of information relating to operation of a vehicle, an interface, communications by way of the interface. The combination of these technical features “define[s] a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art,”<sup>3</sup> and therefore constitutes the “one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features,” which are involved in the technical relationship between the embodiments of applicants’ invention(s). Each embodiment of the claimed invention requires this combination, thus the requirement of unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 is fulfilled. In other words, the present requirement for restriction is inappropriate under the proper “Unity of Invention” standard.

In view of the forgoing, it respectfully is requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

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July 8, 2009

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<sup>2</sup> PCT RULE 13.2.

<sup>3</sup> PCT RULE 13.2.